

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are amended. The amendments are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. No new matter is added by the amendments.

The Office Action indicates that an IDS is not presently in the file. An IDS was filed August 13, 2002. The file history indicates that the IDS was entered to the file on September 3, 2002. Nevertheless, a replacement IDS was filed March 23, 2004.

The Title of the invention is objected to as not clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The Title is amended to clearly that the vehicle window pane of the invention is a bi-directionally-curved pane. Applicant requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The disclosure is objected to because each figure should be described separately in the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS. Appropriate amendments are submitted.

Applicant requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant traverses the rejection to the extent that it can be maintained.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1. Claim 1 and claim 3 are now directed to a bi-directional vehicle window pane. Claim 3 also requires that the curvature of the lateral section be different from the single radius of curvature in the curved vertical section. By definition, a compound curvature is results from two simple curves joined together and curving in the same direction. Applicant submits that claim 3 read in conjunction with the drawings and the specification is understandable to one of ordinary skill, and requests that the rejection of claim 3 be withdrawn.

Claim 4 is amended to remove the ambiguities cited in the Office Action. Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 4-6 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Keys et al. (US 4,932,161). Applicant traverses the rejection to the extent that it can be maintained.

Claims 1 and 4 are independent claims, and claims 2 and 5 respectively depend therefrom. The Office Action cites figures 2 and 3 as illustrating a vehicle window having an arcuate curved vertical section having at every position thereof, a same radius of curvature that

corresponds to a radius of curvature of a predetermined sliding movement path followed by the vehicle window pane, and a curved lateral section having a same radius of curvature at every position thereof. However, the description in the specification of figures 2 and 3 only refers to structural elements 14 and 15 as windows (column 2 lines 10-68) and makes no further explanation of their shape. Drawings are intended as an aid to understand an invention. As explained at MPEP § 2125, drawings can anticipate if they clearly show the structure of the claimed invention, and show all of the claimed structural features. A reference that does not disclose that the drawings are to scale and are silent as to dimensions are of little value.

Hockerson-Halberstadt, Inc. v. Avia Group Int'l, 222 F.3d 951, 956, 55 USPQ2d 1487, 1491 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Although figures 2 and 3 have a superficial resemblance to the claimed invention, they fail to disclose a vehicle window pane having an arcuately curved vertical section having, at every position thereof, a single or same radius of curvature, and a curved lateral section having a same curvature at every position thereof wherein the curvature of the curved vertical section and the curvature of the curved lateral section are different from each other. Applicant respectfully submits that figures 2 and 3 of Keys do not anticipate claims 1 and 4. As claims 2 and 5 depend from claims 1 and 4, claims 2 and 5 are likewise not anticipated. Applicant request that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 be withdrawn on this ground.

Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keys et al. (US 4,932,161) in view of Sakai et al. (US 4,219,968). Applicant traverses the rejection to the extent that it can be maintained.

The teachings of Keys et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 is discussed above. Sakai et al. disclose a door window glass formed in the shape of a composite spindle surface by smoothly connecting a plurality of spindle surfaces in a vertical direction so that the radius of curvature along any vertical section of the window glass decreases in a downward direction (column 2 lines 8-24, and column 3 lines 37-39). Clearly, Sakai et al. do not teach or suggest a curved vertical surface having a single radius of curvature in the vertical direction. The combined teachings Keys et al. and Sakai et al. fail to teach or suggest the invention of claims 3 and 6. Also, claims 3 and 6 depend from claims 1 and 4, respectively. Claims depending from allowable independent claims are likewise allowable. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 3 and 6 be withdrawn.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keys et al. (US 4,932,161) in view of Sakai et al. (US 4,219,968). Applicant traverses the rejection to the extent that it can be maintained.

Claim 7 includes as a structural element a bi-directionally curved vehicle window pane as recited in claim 1. The teachings of Keys et al. and Sakai et al. are discussed above. These references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the bi-directionally curved vehicle window pane of claim 1. As Keys et al. in view of Sakai et al. fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 7, claim 7 is patentable over the combined references. Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claim 7 be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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